

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a holding portion holding obtained image data;  
an image-related information producing portion producing image-  
related information related to said image data;  
5 an accepting portion accepting designation of a destination of said  
image-related information to be sent;  
a sending portion sending said image-related information to an  
external device at said designated destination;  
a receiving portion receiving output form instruction information  
10 related to said image data from said external device; and  
an image forming portion forming image data for output from said  
image data held by said holding portion based on said output form  
instruction information.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said image-related information producing portion produces the  
image-related information including an abbreviated image prepared from  
at least a part of said image data.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said receiving portion receives, as an output form, said output form  
instruction information instructing either print output of said image data  
or sending output of said image data to another device.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said image data is obtained by scanning each of documents forming a  
document group,  
said image-related information producing portion produces said  
5 image-related information for each of said documents, and  
said receiving portion receives said output form instruction  
information instructing an output form of each of said documents.

5. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a holding portion holding obtained image data;  
an accepting portion accepting a setting from an external device, said  
setting being related to an abbreviated image prepared from said image  
5 data;  
an abbreviated image producing portion producing said abbreviated  
image by using at least a part of said image data based on said setting; and  
a sending portion sending said abbreviated image to said external  
device.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
said accepting portion accepts said setting designating at least one of  
a resolution of said abbreviated image, a color of said abbreviated image, a  
data format of said abbreviated image and a region of said image data to be  
5 used for producing said abbreviated image.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
said setting accepted by said accepting portion from said external  
device designates at least one of change of said abbreviated image and  
resending of said abbreviated image.

8. An image forming method comprising:  
a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by  
an image forming apparatus;

5 an image-related information producing step of producing image-  
related information related to said image data in said image forming  
apparatus;

a designating step of designating to said image forming apparatus, a  
destination of said image-related information to be sent;

10 an image-related information sending step of sending said image-  
related information to an image managing apparatus at the designated  
destination from said image forming apparatus;

an image-related information displaying step of displaying, in said

image managing apparatus, the image-related information received from said image forming apparatus;

15        an output form instruction information producing step of producing, in said image managing apparatus, output form instruction information related to said image data;

          an output form instruction information sending step of sending said output form instruction information from said image managing apparatus to said image forming apparatus; and

20        an image forming step of forming image data for output from said image data stored in said storage device based on said output form instruction information.

9. An image forming method comprising:

          a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

5        a setting step of effecting a setting related to an abbreviated image to be produced from said image data on said image forming apparatus by an image managing apparatus;

          an abbreviated image producing step of producing, in said image forming apparatus, said abbreviated image by using at least a part of said image data based on said setting; and

10        a sending step of sending said abbreviated image from said image forming apparatus to said image managing apparatus.

10. An image forming method comprising:

          a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

5        a first abbreviated image producing and sending step of producing a first abbreviated image by using at least a part of said image data, and sending said first abbreviated image from said image forming apparatus to an image managing apparatus;

          an instructing step of sending an instruction related to said first abbreviated image from said image managing apparatus to said image

10 forming apparatus; and  
a second abbreviated image producing and sending step of producing,  
in said image forming apparatus, a second abbreviated image to be  
substituted for said first abbreviated image by using at least a part of said  
image data based on said instruction, and sending said second abbreviated  
15 image.

11. An image managing apparatus comprising:  
a receiving portion receiving image-related information related to  
image data from an image forming apparatus;  
a display portion displaying said image-related information;  
5 an output form instruction information producing portion producing  
output form instruction information instructing an output form of said  
image data held in said image forming apparatus based on said image-  
related information; and  
a sending portion sending said output form instruction information  
10 to the image forming apparatus.

12. The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said image-related information includes an abbreviated image  
prepared from at least a part of the image data,  
said display portion displays at least said abbreviated image, and  
5 said image managing apparatus further comprises an accepting  
portion accepting an instruction operation using said abbreviated image  
and performed by a user for an output form.

13. The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said output form instruction information producing portion produces,  
as said output form, the output form instruction information instructing  
either print output of said image data or sending output of said image data  
5 to another device.

14. The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said image data is obtained by scanning each of documents forming a document group,

5       said image-related information received from said image forming apparatus includes the image-related information for each of said documents, and

      said output form instruction information producing portion produces said output form instruction information instructing an output form of each of said documents.

15.   An image managing apparatus comprising:  
      a receiving portion receiving an abbreviated image produced by using at least a part of image data from an image forming apparatus; and  
      a sending portion sending instruction information providing an  
5   instruction related to said abbreviated image.

16.   The image managing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said instruction related to the abbreviated image instructs at least one of change of said abbreviated image and resending of said abbreviated image.

17.   The image managing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said instruction related to the abbreviated image instructs at least one of a resolution of said abbreviated image, a color of said abbreviated image, a data format of said abbreviated image and a region of said image  
5   data to be used for producing said abbreviated image.